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The
STATE HOUSES
of
SOUTH CAROLINA
1751-1936



By A. S. Salley, Secretary
Historical Commission of South Carolina

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The State House at Charleston
1751-1790

From the first settlement of South Carolina, begun in 1670, when Charles Town was established on its first site on the south bank of the Kiawah or Ashley River, the seat of government of South Carolina was at Charles Town (which became Charleston by an Act of the General Assembly of the State ratified August 13, 1783) until 1790, when it was removed to the newly established capital, Columbia.

For over three-quarters of a century after the founding of Charles Town the legislative and executive branches of the government of the province of South Carolina functioned in rented quarters, although repeated efforts had been made during those years to procure a State House.

On June 7, 1712, an Act was ratified by the General Assembly "for building a convenient State House for the holding of the General Assemblies, Courts of Justice, and other public uses." Fifteen hundred pounds was appropriated for the purpose. A controversy arose between the General Assembly and the Lords Proprietors over the proposal to use for the purpose the arrears in the payments of quit-rents by the people of the province, and no State House was built.

On March 20, 1718-1719, another Act was passed providing that in case the Lords Proprietors should allow all the arrears of quit-rents to be received by them from purchases of land and from all other dues payable to them to the end of the year 1723, over and above the salaries of the public officials of the province and "other contingent charges of the government," payable by the Lords Proprietors, to be used for the purpose, that it should be "appropriated towards the building of a Public State House with convenient apartments, for the sitting of the Governour and Council and the other house of Assembly, and for holding the Publick Courts of Judicature, and for apartments of the several Publick Officers to

keep their records and offices, and also for the building of a publick house or prison, for the use of the Marshall of the Province, but the Marshall to be obliged to pay a reasonable rent for the same yearly, to the Lords Proprietors Receiver General, for the use of the Lords Proprietors, in order to keep the Publick State House in repair."

In a letter from Governor Robert Johnson, written ten years later to the president of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations and dated December 19, 1729, it is evident that the Royal Government was no more interested in building a State House for the province than the Lords Proprietors had been, and over twenty years more passed by before any decisive action was taken.

On January 29, 1751, a committee of the Commons House of Assembly, appointed to report on revision of the duty laws and all other laws concerning the public revenues and how appropriated by said laws, which should be continued and how they could be rendered more serviceable to the public, reported that the extra duty on rum, madeira wine, sugar and molasses amounted annually to £8,743, and recommended that £2,000 thereof be appropriated annually for building a State House in Charles Town.

By the 35th section of the General Duty Act, passed June 14, 1751, £2,500 was allotted annually for ten years for building a State House. *The South-Carolina Gazette* for July 2, 1753, announced:

On Thursday the 22d of June (being also the Day of His Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne, when he entered into the 27th Year of His Reign) the Corner Stone of OUR STATE HOUSE, was laid, by His Excellency the Governor, and a Sum of Money thereon: After him, the several Members of His Majesty's Council and the Assembly, the Commissioners, and other Gentlemen who attended the Governor, laid each a Brick in the proper Manner; and then they all proceeded to Mr. Gordon's where, after Dinner, Toasts suitable to the Day and Occasion were drunk.

On March 13, 1756, the Commons House addressed a communication to the governor and Council to inform them that it had resolved to remove from the place where it was then sitting to the State House on the 25th of the month and to desire them to make choice of such rooms in the State House as they should think most convenient for their purposes.

On March 16, 1756, the commissioners directing the building of the State House, which appears to have been still unfinished, reported that they had spent £22,000 and still owed £7,185.1.1. Of that amount £16,456.18.10 had been expended for workmanship, labor and materials and £3,500 had been sent to Great Britain for additional materials.

On March 31, 1756, the Commons House resolved to provide "not exceeding" £12,500 for "finishing the State House," and that amount was included in the Act ratified May 21, 1757, for making appropriations for the year from January 1, 1756, to January 1, 1757.

On April 18, 1758, the commissioners reported that they had expended £37,437.0.5 of the £37,500 appropriated and still owed £3,593.10.9 on the work.

On March 29, 1759, £1,250 was allocated to the fund for building the State House from the income of the general duty fund. and on the 4th of April following the commissioners again reported the deficit of £3,593.10.9 which they had reported the previous year. The report was referred to a committee and on April 28, 1760, was referred to another committee. On May 6, 1760, the committee reported that of the £37,500 received by the commissioners £37,437.0.5 had been expended up to April 18, 1759, on workmen, laborers and material and that there was then still due £3,572.6.4; that subsequently three additional claims had been filed: by Justinus Stoll for smith's work of £11.18.6; for salary of the clerk of the commission for one year and three

months of £125 and by Brunett & Miller, contractors, for time lost while courts were sitting in the building, of £429, making a total indebtedness of £4,138.4.10, or £4,-075.5.3 in excess of appropriations. The House resolved to raise £3,572.6.4 more, to allow Stoll's claim in full, to cut the clerk's salary to £62.10 and the contractor's claim to £250. Deducting the unexpended balance of £62.7.7 and the £241.10 that had been scaled from the clerk's salary and the contractors' claim left a balance of £3,770,-16.8 to be made up. The report finally declared a balance in favor of the treasurer of £23,770.16.8. The appropriation Act of 1760 carried an item for the State House of £3,886.14.10, which was £10 less than the total of the deficit reported April 18, 1758, and the three subsequent claims approved, giving a total expenditure to May 6, 1760, of £41,323.15.3. Add to that the apparent additional appropriation of £20,000 obtained from the general duty fund and we have £61,323.15.3 as the total of appropriations.

On Tuesday, February 5, 1788, the building was destroyed by fire of accidental origin. The *Gazette* for February 7th reported:

On Tuesday evening a fire was discovered in the Senate-room of the State House, which, in a few hours, reduced that building to a pile of ruins. The conflagration commenced by the intense heat of the fire, catching a part of the wainscoting, which projected over the bricks, above the fire place. Several persons rushed into the room, and could have easily extinguished the fire if they had been readily supplied with water. But after this necessary repellent arrived in sufficient quantity, the flames ascended into the upper story, and there formed a crown of ruin over the whole building. Happily for the adjacent houses, there was a very light wind, until nearly the fury of the fire was spent. The building was begun in 1753. The first stone thereof was laid by J. Glen, Esq., then Governor, on the 22nd June, attended by the council, the general assembly, etc. The expense amounted to 59,127 pounds, sterling.

If the *Gazette's* figures for the cost of the building are correct, then over £2,000 of the last appropriation was not expended;

quite a change from the earlier expenditures, which always exceeded appropriations.

The State House was very soon reconstructed with some changes, notwithstanding the fact that there was then being constructed another State House in the newly established town of Columbia. After the government offices had been moved to Columbia in 1789 and 1790, Charleston District acquired the former State House property for the district courthouse. After many repairs and some changes it is still used as the courthouse of Charleston County.

Until recently the writer had never been able to procure a picture of this first State House as it appeared before it was burned. Some months ago a friend from Cheraw came in with some old currency of the province of South Carolina to show to him, and there on one of the bills for 1767 was a miniature picture of the contemporaneous State House.

The First State House in Columbia 1786-1865

The Act of the General Assembly ratified March 22, 1786, "to appoint Commissioners to purchase Land for the purpose of building a Town, and for removing the Seat of Government thereto" provided that "as soon as the commissioners, or their successors, shall be possessed of such funds arising from the sale of lots, or by subscription, loan, or otherwise, they shall proceed to contract for the building a State House, with convenient rooms for the reception of the General Assembly, courts of justice, and the officers necessarily required for each, secretary of the State, treasurer, surveyor general, and such other public officers as may be appointed by law."

In December, 1789, the public offices were moved from Charleston to Columbia and occupied the new State House. The General Assembly also met therein for the first time, on Monday, January 4, 1790.

As there was no direct appropriation made to build the State House in Columbia, the Commissioners having been required to build it with the proceeds of sales of the town lots of the newly established seat of government, and as there are no reports of the Commissioners available, the writer has been unable to learn the cost of the structure.

From a letter written by President Washington we learn that he had been informed by Henry Laurens that James Hoban, a young Irishman whom he had recommended to the President, was the architect of the new State House. The President engaged Hoban to design the executive mansion in Washington.

In his diary for May 23, 1791, while visiting Columbia, President Washington wrote:

Dined at a public dinner in the State House with a number of Gentlemen & Ladies of the Town of Columbia & Country round about to the amt. of more than 150, of which 50 or 60 were of the latter.

* * *

The State House (which is also of wood) is a large and commodious building, but unfinished—

The Appropriation Act of 1793 carried an item of £402.14.2 for "Expenses of finishing two large rooms in the State House."

In the Appropriation Act of 1799 was an item of £2,000 for repairs to the "Treasurer's office in Columbia and the state house."

The Appropriation Act of 1801 carried an appropriation of \$800 for "repairs to the state house, and out buildings at Columbia, in aid of the balance in their hands."

In the Appropriation Act of 1804 there was an item of \$9,450 for "repairs of the State House."

The Act for 1810 carried for "other repairs to the State House" \$1,500.

The Act of 1814 provided \$600 for "repairs of the State House and fence."

The Act of 1816 provided \$2,340 for "painting the State-House, making a stone pavement, a new fence around lot, &c," and \$5,000 "for the purpose of enlarging and ventilating the Representative chamber: Provided that no addition be made to the exterior of the State House."

The Act for 1830 provided \$5,000 for "the repairs of the State House and its appurtenances."

At the session of 1831 John J. Chappell, James Boatwright and John W. Clark were "appointed commissioners to superintend the repairs of the State House and its appurtenances" and were authorized to use the \$5,000 appropriated in 1830 for making such repairs.

In 1843 \$10,500 was appropriated for repairs; in 1844 \$5,000 was appropriated "for repairs and improvements on the State House and grounds," and in 1845 \$10,000 was appropriated for the same purpose. In 1846 \$500 more was appropriated and in 1847 \$300. There is nothing to show how much of these appropriations was used. It is quite evident, however, that the depreciation in a wooden building used, and probably often misused, by the public was considerable.

On the night of February 17, 1865, Sherman's troops set fire to the building, and it was totally destroyed.

The Fire-Proof Building

In his annual message to the General Assembly, Tuesday, November 27, 1849, Governor Seabrook called attention to "a rich mass of authentic materials, illustrative of the early history" of South Carolina, "and of the public character" of several of its citizens, that had been brought to light by the examination by a public-spirited citizen in the State offices, and recommended that additional efforts be made to collect and preserve records relating to the State's history.

In the House of Representatives on Thursday, December 6, 1849, Mr. B. F. Perry "presented the Memorial of sundry citizens of South Carolina, on the proper care and preservation of the Colonial and Revolutionary Records of South Carolina," which was referred to the Committee on Education.

On December 13, 1849, the Senate adopted a resolution providing that "the Intendant and Wardens of the Town of Columbia do cause to be surveyed the several lots in the Town of Columbia belonging to the State, and that the said Council do sell to the highest bidder all such lots not heretofore reserved for the use of the State; and that the said Council do account to the Treasurer of the Upper Division, for the net proceeds of said sales." The resolution was concurred in by the House on the 19th.

In the House of Representatives on Friday, November 29, 1850, Mr. Wagner submitted a resolution which was immediately considered and adopted, calling upon the Speaker to appoint the usual Committee on the State House and Grounds, and directing that a message be sent to the Senate requesting that body to appoint a committee to act with the House committee. The Speaker appointed T. M. Wagner, L. M. Keitt and B. F. Hunt. The president of the Senate, on the same day, appointed William Izard Bull, R. S. Bedon and John Wilson.

This Special Joint Committee on the State House and Grounds made a report, which was read in the House on the 14th of December and immediately agreed to and sent to the Senate where it was concurred in and returned to the House on the 18th. The following part thereof took cognizance of the recommendation of Governor Seabrook and the petition presented by Mr. Perry the preceding year:

The Committee beg to call attention of the Legislature to the necessity of providing a place of safe-keeping for the State papers. At present

they are kept in the lower rooms of the State House, and their insecurity must be palpable to every one. Their destruction would involve nearly every citizen of the State. They would therefore respectfully recommend that the amount of proceeds of the sale of lots in the town of Columbia, ordered by the last Legislature, be transferred to the Special Joint Committee on the State House and Grounds, and that they be authorized to contract for the first story of a fire proof building to be located on the lot next the State House at present occupied by the Keeper.¹ The amount of sales your Committee have ascertained will complete the ground floor, and a safe place will thus be provided for the public records, leaving for some future period (when the funds of the State may be less needed,) the completion of the building.

On December 15, 1851, the Special Joint Committee presented a report in the House which was agreed to and sent to the Senate for concurrence, which was done on the 16th. Therein the Committee say:

The Legislature will remember that at the last session it was agreed that the sales of lots in the town of Columbia, shall be placed at the disposal of the Committee, for the purpose of erecting the basement story of a fire proof building, for the deposit of the Records of the State.²

The Committee after great deliberation, have determined to erect the said building as the part of a plan which might be used as a State House.

The present structure being of wood, cannot in the usual course of nature, last many years longer, and a new one must be provided.

They therefore, before commencing operations, employed a skillful architect to furnish a general plan of a complete building, and also of the part (namely the north wing) now to be built, which has been placed in the Hall for inspection.

The arrangements are such, that the wing now in course of erection will be of itself a complete building, should the Legislature determine not to adopt the whole plan.

The Committee have entered into agreement with Messrs. McCullough & Werner, for the above work. They have given bonds to the amount of twenty-five thousand, with approved securities for the faithful performance of their contracts.

1 This lot lay to the north of the State House, between it and Gervais Street.

2 Due to circumstances related hereinafter this plan miscarried, and only in 1935—eighty-five years later—"the basement story" of the beautiful World War Memorial has been erected "for the deposit of the Records of the State," as a utilitarian feature of a monument to those who aided in winning the war.

The materials to be used are Carolina granite, brick, and iron.

As by a former Act of the General Assembly, the proceeds of the sales of the Columbia lots were ordered to be paid into the Treasury, and the authority of your Committee to receive the same was only by joint resolution, they respectfully suggest the introduction of a clause into the appropriation act to carry out the purpose of said Resolution.

They also suggest that the Town Council of Columbia be authorized to proceed with the sale of the lots.

The Committee propose to lay the Corner Stone of the fire-proof Building on Monday next, 15th inst., at half-past nine o'clock, A. M., and respectfully request the attendance of both Houses of the Legislature, to add solemnity to the ceremonies which are usual and appropriate on such an occasion.

The Appropriation Act of 1851 directed the State Treasurer to "pay over to the order of the Committee \$5,620.00 already received at the Treasury" and any further sums received from sales of lots.

The Committee extended an invitation to both houses to attend the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the building, which followed on the same day.

There appears to have been some delay in presenting the report, as the last paragraph thereof indicates that it had been prepared the week preceding "Monday next, 15th inst."

On December 16th Mr. Hunt submitted the following Resolution, which was immediately agreed to:

Resolved, That the statement of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives relating to the laying the Corner Stone of the Building to preserve the Archives of the State be furnished to the Clerk, and be spread upon the proceedings of the House, for the perpetual Record of the same. Also, that the same, together with the Address of the occasion of the ceremony, be printed by the printer of the House, and twelve copies of the same furnished to each Representative and Senator for distribution among their constituents.

In obedience to the above Resolution, the following is the order of the proceedings referred to and observed in the laying of the Corner Stone:

ANNO DOMINI MDCCCLI,
on the 15th of December, in the
SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
when

MILLARD FILLMORE WAS PRESIDENT
and

W. R. KING, (PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,)
was VICE PRESIDENT

of the
UNITED STATES
and when

JOHN H. MEANS
was

GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
and

JOSHUA JOHN WARD,

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
of the

STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA,
was

THIS CORNER STONE

LAI D BY

WORSHIPFUL ALBERT G. MACKEY, M. D.,

GRAND SECRETARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF

SOUTH CAROLINA:

in pursuance of the order of

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH
CAROLINA:

R. F. W. ALLSTON,

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,

AND

JAMES SIMONS,

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

by its

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON STATE HOUSE

AND GROUNDS:

WM. IZARD BULL,	}	Committee of the Senate.
R. S. BEDON,		
JOHN WILSON,		

THOS. M. WAGNER,	}	Committee of House of Rep.
BENJ. FANEUIL HUNT,		
L. M. KEITT,		

THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

St. Philip and St. Michael—W. D. Porter, J. E. Carew.
St. James' Santee—Alexander Mazyck.
Christ Church—A. Hibben.
St. Thomas and St. Dennis—J. L. Nowell.
St. John's Berkley—S. W. Barker.
St. Stephen's—J. S. Palmer.
St. James' Goose Creek—John Wilson.
St. Andrew's—William I. Bull.
St. Johns, Colleton—John F. Townsend.
St. George, Dorchester—R. S. Bedon.
St. Paul's—H. S. King.
St. Bartholomew's—M. E. Carn.
St. Helena—Richard DeTreville.
St. Luke's—B. G. Alston.
St. Peter's—J. M. Lawton.
Prince Williams—William Williams.
Prince George, Winyah—R. F. W. Allston.
All-Saints—A. Hasell.
Williamsburg—E. H. Miller.
Marion—Benjamin Gause.
Horry—J. B. Skipper.
St. Matthew's—Dr. T. J. Goodwyn.
Orange—M. Gramling.
Clarendon—John L. Manning.
Claremont—F. J. Moses.
Barnwell—J. J. Wilson.
Lexington—P. Quattlebaum.
Richland—James H. Adams.
Kershaw—W. J. Taylor.
Darlington—I. D. Wilson.
Marlborough—C. W. Dudley.
Chesterfield—F. E. Poe.
Lancaster—Dixon Barnes.
Fairfield—J. Buchanan.
Chester—N. R. Eaves.
York—J. D. Witherspoon.
Union—William H. Gist.
Newberry—P. C. Caldwell.
Edgefield—N. L. Griffin.
Abbeville—J. F. Marshall.
Laurens—William Irby.
Spartanburg—Gabriel Cannon.
Greenville—T. E. Ware.
Pendleton—Alex. Evins.

WILLIAM E. MARTIN, Clerk of Senate.

It will be observed that there are differences in the spelling, capitalization and punctuation of the proper names here. The errors are not of the author's making. The printed resolution has been faithfully quoted. All parishes should have the apostrophe and s except Christ Church, All Saints and Orange.

THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

- St. Philip and St. Michael*—N. Mitchell, J. B. Heyward, J. C. Blum, P. D. Torre, H. D. Lesesne, J. Simons, E. McCrady, C. G. Memminger, A. H. Dunkin, J. Phillips, N. R. Middleton, A. W. Burnet, J. F. Poppenheim, B. F. Hunt, S. Cruikshank, F. D. Richardson, J. W. Wilkinson, J. B. Campbell.
- Christ Church*—T. M. Wagner.
- St. Thomas and St. Dennis*—H. Wigfall.
- St. James, Santee*—E. D. Jerman.
- St. Stephens*—T. S. Marion.
- St. Johns, Berkley*—J. Sinkler.
- St. James, Goose Creek*—J. C. McKewn.
- St. Andrews*,—E. M. Clark.
- St. Johns, Colleton*—J. Jenkins, jr., E. M. Seabrook.
- St. George, Dorchester*—E. Brownlee.
- St. Pauls*—D. J. Wilkinson.
- St. Bartholomew's*—N. Heyward, jr., J. B. Perry, S. Verdier.
- Prince William's*—W. Bowers, W. F. Hutson.
- St. Helena*—B. J. Johnson.
- St. Luke's*—W. Pope.
- St. Peter's*—J. W. Duncan, A. R. Johnston.
- All-Saints, Waccamaw*—D. Jordon.
- Prince George, Winyah*—J. H. Reed, jr., G. Manigault, J. I. Middleton.
- St. Matthew's Parish*—W. J. Keitt.
- Orange*—L. M. Keitt, D. R. Barton.
- Claremont*—J. D. Ashmore, J. M. Nelson, T. E. Baker.
- Clarendon*—M. M. Benbow, J. J. Ingram.
- Abbeville*—S. McGowen, J. W. Hearst, J. K. Vance, C. T. Haskell, Thomas Thomson.
- Barnwell*—B. W. Lawton, James Patterson, L. M. Ayer, W. A. Owens.
- Chester*—S. McAliley, A. Q. Dunovant, T. W. Moore.
- Chesterfield*—Samuel W. Evans, A. M. Lowry.
- Darlington*—J. A. Dargan, W. H. Evans, J. H. Blackwell.
- Edgefield*—W. C. Moragne, John R. Wever, G. A. Addison, W. D. Jennings, Joseph Abney, A. Jones.
- Fairfield*—W. S. Lyles, W. R. Robertson, H. H. Clark.
- Greenville*—B. F. Perry, E. P. Jones, P. F. Duncan, T. P. Brockman.
- Horry*—R. G. W. Grissette.
- Kershaw*—James Cantey, James Chesnut, jr.
- Lancaster*—T. K. Cureter, P. T. Hammond.
- Laurens*—J. H. Irby, C. P. Sullivan, John Smith, M. P. Evins.
- Lexington*—L. Boozer, A. G. Summer.
- Marion*—D. J. McDonald, G. S. Myers, W. B. Rowell.
- Marlboro'*—A. G. Johnston, J. W. Harrington.
- Newberry*—A. C. Garlington, R. Moorman, J. P. Kinard.
- Pendleton*—F. N. Garvin, T. Cunningham, John A. Easley, jr., J. W. Harrison, E. Alexander, J. T. Whitefield, S. M. Wilkes.

Richland—J. S. Preston, E. J. Arthur, J. H. Kinsler,
B. F. Taylor.
Spartanburg—J. W. Tucker, E. C. Leitner, E. P.
Smith, H. J. Dean, T. W. Waters.
Union—W. Giles, A. W. Thomson, John Wright.
Williamsburgh—B. W. Bradley, S. J. Montgomery.
York—G. W. Williams, R. G. McCaw, J. N. M'Elwee,
A. Robertson.

THOMAS W. GLOVER, Clerk of H. of R.
CHARLES M'CULLOCH,

Contractor for Mason Work.

CHARLES WERNER,

Contractor for Iron Work.

Under the Superintendence of

P. H. HAMMARSKOLD,

Constructing Architect.

On December 13, 1852, the Committee on the State House and Grounds of the House of Representatives recommended that \$50,000 be appropriated to complete the fire proof building then being erected. The Appropriation Act of 1852 carried an item for that amount.

In their report to the General Assembly in December, 1853, the Commissioners say:

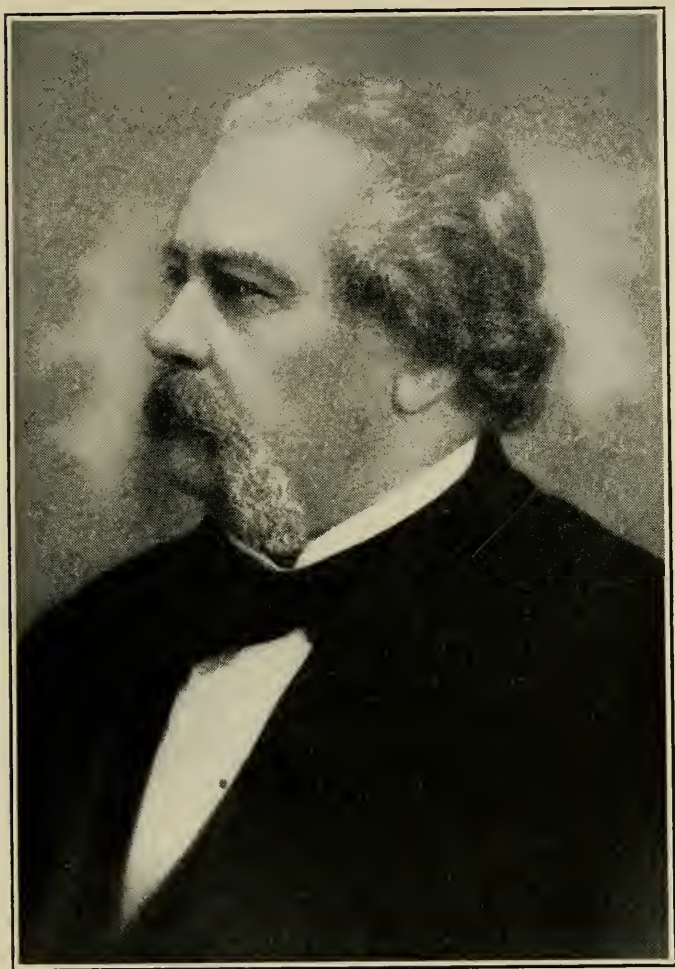
The land necessary to enlarge the area of the capitol grounds can be procured now, and forming a material part of the plan, the Commissioners propose an appropriation not exceeding \$250,000, to enable them to complete the grounds, remove the present State-house where it can be used, until the capitol is ready, lay the entire foundation, and erect the first story ready for occupancy. * *

The fire proof portion now erected will cost about sixty thousand dollars, which consumes the greatest portion of what the Legislature have already placed in our control. * * * * Besides this outlay, their materials and labor beyond the fire-proof building, and adapted to the rest of the building, has cost about \$30,000.

On December 20, 1853, the General Assembly ratified an Act which provided for the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$250,000. to secure funds for erecting the building. The bonds were to mature in 1871 and bear interest at not over 6%, payable semi-annually.

In May, 1854, when the Commissioners inspected the work being done on the proposed State House they discovered serious defects in both the brick and stone work.

The architect and contractors not giving a satisfactory explanation of the causes of the trouble, the Commissioners ordered the work stopped, suspended architect Hammarskold and called upon Governor Manning to procure an architect "of undoubted skill and competency" to inspect the work.



John R. Niernsee

John R. Niernsee, of Baltimore, was engaged and he met with the Commissioners on June 15th. Niernsee reported that the trouble was caused by "the employment of workmanship and materials inferior to those which were specified and contracted for." Hammarskold was dismissed and the contractors for masonry and brick work were ordered to remove the defective work. The

contractor for the masonry refused to comply with the order and forfeited his contract. The contractor for the brick work was dismissed. Niernsee was employed as Consulting Architect and G. E. Walker, of South Carolina, who had been Assistant Architect on the Custom House at Charleston, was employed as Superintending Architect.

The Commission organized a construction department which, under Walker's direction, took down the defective walls already built and began the preparation of materials on the ground by "day labor" under a "competent foreman for each mechanical branch."

In their report to the General Assembly in November, 1854, the Commissioners "estimated a saving of twenty or twenty-five per cent. for the former contract prices, which will enable them to cover all supposed loss to the State."

The report of the Superintending Architect, at the same session, shows that there had been expended on the new building and "sundry works upon the old State House and grounds," including \$14,000. paid William Glaze for rolling it back out of the way of the proposed new building, and \$30,000. paid for the square to the east of Richardson Street, \$223,213.12; that \$72,267.75 of that might be regarded as lost because of the frauds of the architect and contractors; that materials on hand available for future use were worth \$150,945.37 and that a balance of \$91,787.00 remained, making the equivalent of \$242,732.37 to be applied to the reconstruction of the building.

In his annual message of 1854 Governor Manning reviewed the reports of the Commissioners and Mr. Walker and "presumed" that the General Assembly intended to carry out its original intentions and added:

In that event I recommend a change of position for the new edifice. By locating it at the intersection of Senate and Richardson street with

northern and southern exposures it can be seen without obstruction from the four points of the compass and will present an appearance more dignified and imposing.

That part of the Governor's message was referred to a Special Joint Committee consisting of six members of each house. Those appointed on the part of the Senate were Messrs. Carn, Chesnut, Drayton, Pickens, Barnes and Ingram; on the part of the House Messrs. B. F. Perry, Trenholm, Boykin, McGowan, B. H. Wilson and Bryan.

The New State House

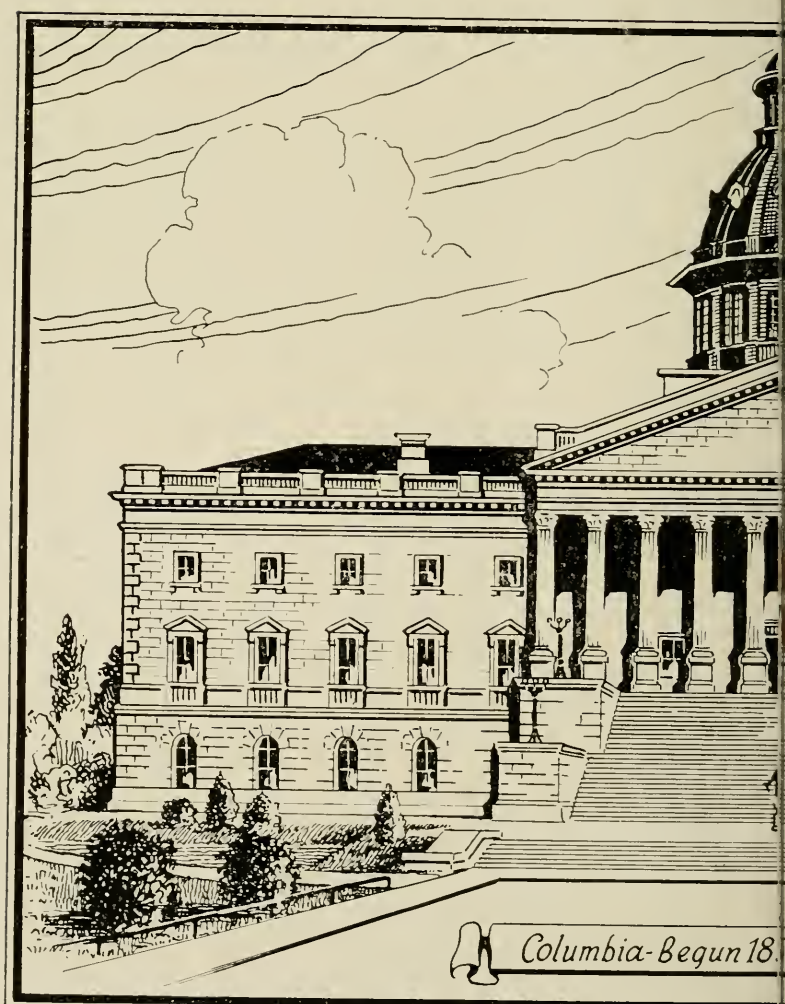
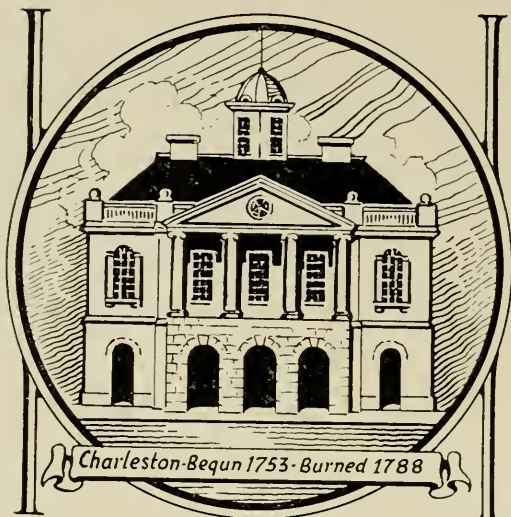
The General Assembly agreed to Governor Manning's proposals and adopted resolutions containing a provision that the cost of the new structure "shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars, in addition to the amounts already appropriated for that purpose."

The Appropriation Act of 1855 carried an appropriation of \$3,500 for the salary of the superintendent of "the new State House" and one for \$250,000 "for continuing the construction of the new State House." The governor was "authorized and required" to issue bonds to the amount of the appropriation, payable in twenty-five years, to bear 6% interest, payable semi-annually. These bonds were issued in 1856.

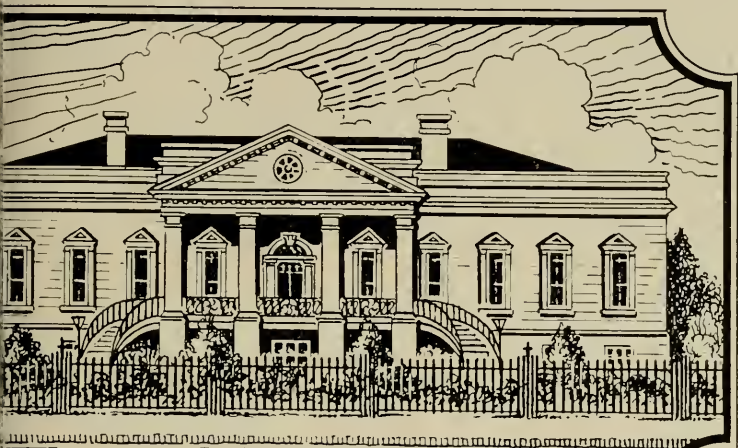
A commissioner was to succeed the Special Joint Committee of the General Assembly by resolutions of the General Assembly passed earlier in the session, and on December 18th an election was held to fill the position. Gen. James Jones, of Edgefield, was elected for a term of one year. He was prohibited from expending "in any one year, more than the amount appropriated."

Resolutions of thanks to the old Commissioners, for "devoting their time and attention to the public service, without pecuniary reward for two years or upwards," were adopted.

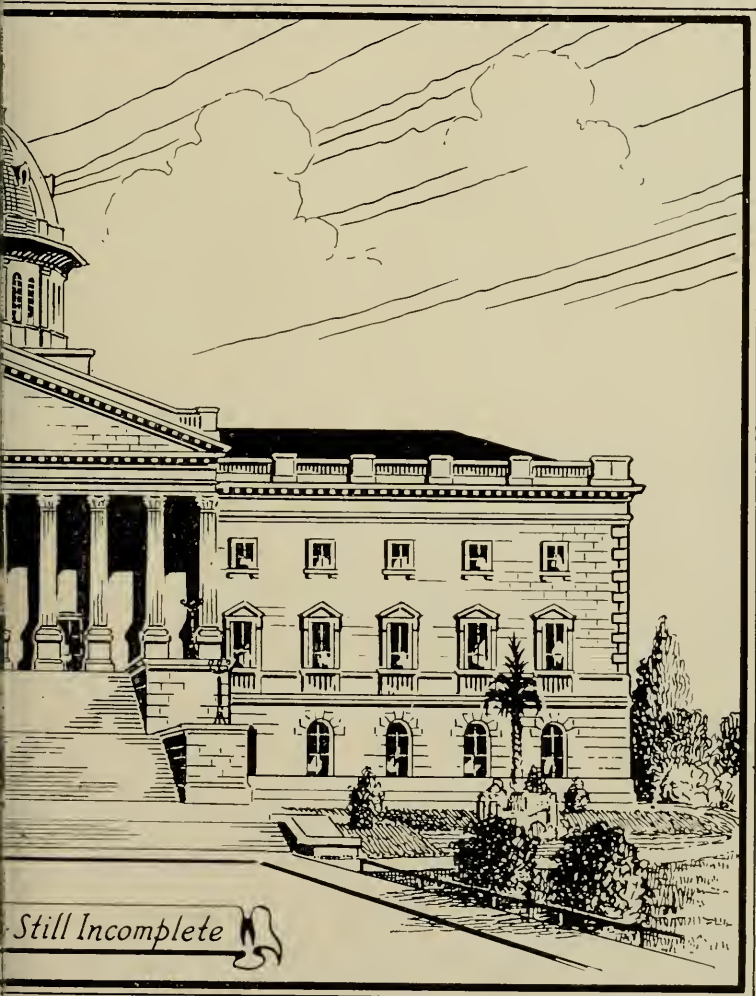
~ State Houses of



South Carolina ~



Columbia-Begun 1786-Burned 1865



Still Incomplete

The Comptroller General's report for 1856 shows receipts from October, 1855, to October, 1856, as follows:

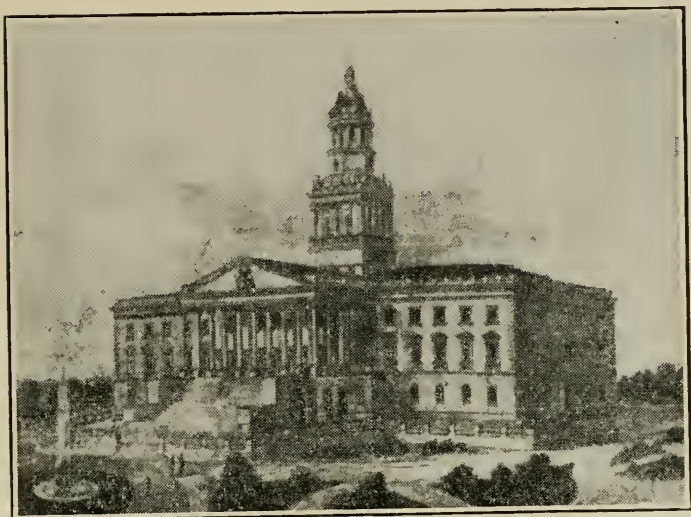
Balance	\$ 136.01
Sales of Columbia lots	1,774.67
From Commissioners	603.80
Sales of bonds	70,997.39
<hr/>	
Total	\$73,511.87

Commissioner Jones reported to the General Assembly in 1856 that he had entered upon his duties December 27, 1855; that he had employed John R. Niernsee to "conduct the work of constructing" the "New State House," at a salary of \$8,000, to commence January 1, 1856, and that he had required him to reside in Columbia. He reported that his predecessors had expended all of the funds that had been in their hands, and that "to continue the construction of the New State House" until the proceeds of sales of bonds "should be deposited in the Treasury" he had had to make personal notes at banks. He further reported that he had collected "mechanics and laborers enough to make reasonable progress with the work," and had gotten together "a large number of stone-cutters, masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, quarrymen and laborers."

Disbursements from November 1, 1855 to September 30, 1856, amounted to \$173,162.-42. He had received from his predecessors \$100.48, and from the Treasury, from sale of bonds \$44,000. There were unsettled accounts to the amount of \$150,701.03, not including wages for November, 1856, then due.

Architect Niernsee reported that the expenditures for 1855 amounted to \$69,491.57 of which \$5,921.35 was for taking down the defective building and "fitting up the present old State House," leaving "to be charged to the New State House for 1855" \$63,570.22, making "the total amount

chargeable to the construction of the New State House up to the 30th of September, 1856" \$183,580.56.



Niernsee's Plan for the State House

The Architect reported a cost of \$5.35 per perch excess of cost of stone in 1856 over that of 1855 due to freshets in the Congaree River, which overflowed the principal quarry of the State at Granby "no less than eight times in eleven months." He reported that 7,221 perches of stone had so far been laid of which 4,152 perches had been laid during the fiscal year 1856, and that "the whole of the foundations of the building proper" were completed, "together with as much of the foundations of the two porticos, as are properly counted under that head."

Three quarries were supplying the granite: the Granby quarry, working 130 men; the Ford quarry, working 37 men and the Duley quarry working 46 men. The stone was hauled from the quarries by mules, an average of 44 mules being employed monthly, and they during the preceding year had hauled 10,154 tons of stone at a total cost of \$8,439.12. He recommended the construction of a railroad from the quarries as more economical.

By an Act ratified December 20, 1856, the governor was authorized and required to issue bonds, or stocks, for an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to bear interest at 6%, payable semi-annually, redeemable at the expiration of twenty years, the funds therefrom to be used "for erecting the New State House." This stock was issued in 1857.

In his annual report for 1857 Commissioner Jones gave as his expenditures for the fiscal year from October 1, 1856, to September 30, 1857 the sum of \$262,749.68, making a total expenditure of \$434,197.84 from the bond issue of \$250,000 in 1856 and the stock issue of \$250,000 in 1857, leaving a balance of \$65,802.16.

John R. Niernsee, "Architect and Superintendent, New State House," reported the "total amount of disbursements chargeable to the New State House, up to September 30, 1857, to be \$451,391.49."

He reported that after "proper specifications and advertisements were published in many State papers for two months, and we were unable to obtain any bids for contracts, either for quarrying, cutting or hauling, and thus determining the continuation of the days' work system, we proceeded to" build a railroad to the Granby quarry, with turnouts for the Davis and Rocky Branch quarries. The road was built by James G. Gibbes, the lowest bidder, for \$12,500, "which included all the work, culverts, bridges, and superstructure, with the exception of the iron rails, they being furnished to him by the State." The length of the road was 3 miles and 208 feet.

He reported: "the structure has now advanced in height to the top of the basement window heads." He further reported the value of materials on hand at \$26,817.24.

On December 21, 1857, an Act was ratified to "Authorize the Issue of Bonds or Stock for the Purpose of Continuing the Construction of the New State House."

The governor was "authorized and required to issue" bonds or stocks to the amount of \$300,000 to bear interest at 6%, payable semi-annually, to mature at the expiration of thirty years.

Commissioner Jones reported October 1, 1858, that he had expended on the New State House during the fiscal year from October 1, 1857 to September 30, 1858, \$295,064.89, of which payments to J. D. Daley for the Palmetto Tree monument and repairs to the old State House, amounting to \$5,683.58, were "not properly chargeable to the construction of the New State House," leaving the actual expenditure \$289,381.31. He reported contracts for "marble, for the main story of the building," to be delivered prior to July 1, 1859, amounting to \$60,000, "unconnected with the force employed here." He asked for a further appropriation of \$400,000.

Niernsee reported "the total amount of disbursements chargeable to the New State House up to October 1st, 1858," to be \$745,-834.05; that by building the railroad "the savings in hauling amounts to nearly \$4,000, or fifty per cent. of the expenditure in the previous year" and that he had installed during the year a steam pump to remove water from the Granby quarry. He says:

Our lowest workings are 65 feet below the top of the dam, and on a rainy day the water falling on an area of 8 acres, accumulates in that space. The rain water will amount to about 200,000 gallons per diem; in addition to which there is a continual flow from several strong ground springs. This was formerly removed by Archimedian screw pumps, worked by an average number of forty hands, raising it 35 feet to the pipes, which run through the dam into the river; but even this relief proved precarious, as the river often rose above the mouths of the pipes, this causing a cessation of accumulations of water in the quarries. It was therefore, determined to sink a well some 12 feet deep, in the lowest part of the quarry, or 78 feet below the top of the dam, which is considered as low as it will ever be necessary to carry on operations, and to erect over this a steam engine, capable not only of working the force pumps, but also

of performing all the hoisting required. By this means the water is now forced up through an iron pipe to the highest part of the Bluff of Col. Taylor's plantation, a perpendicular height of 80 feet, and is discharged at about the rate of 40,000 gallons an hour over the lower end of the dam, into the swamps adjacent to the river, at a point 3 feet above the highest freshet known in the Congaree.

He reported that he had worked an average of an 152 hands at the quarries, with a foreman, his assistant and an overseer of negroes; an average of 114 stone cutters, and had produced, during the year, 24,581 cubic feet of finished work in rustic and plain ashlar, cornices, Doric columns and pilasters, carved Doric capitals, and a large variety of moulded work. He reported that the structure was advanced to the height of the window sill course of the principal floor, or 37 feet above the foot of the foundations. The total number of laborers engaged on October 1, 1858, white and black, was 396, including foremen.

By an Act ratified December 21, 1858, the governor was "authorized and required" to issue bonds or stock to the amount of \$400,000, bearing interest at 6%, payable semi-annually, half of which would mature July 1, 1883, and half July 1, 1885.

Commissioner Jones reported October 1, 1859, that his total disbursements for the fiscal year from October 1, 1858, to September 30, 1859, amounted to \$348,044.27. He reported an unexpended balance of \$84,596.43. He further reported :

I have entered into two contracts with Messrs. Hugh Sisson & Co., by the first of which they undertake to cut the Corinthian capitals of granite for the columns of the building for a specified price; and by the second, they agree to do all the marble work required at the prices named in the contract, both the granite and marble work to be done in the yard of the New State House, and their men to be governed by the same rules and regulations prescribed for our other men upon the yard. These two contracts amount together to about the sum of three hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$335,000.00), of which about one hundred and four thousand dollars (\$104,000.00) will be payable in the course of the ensuing year.

In addition to which, I regard it good economy to retain as many of the present force working by the day as the means of payment will allow, so as to push on the walls to completion, and put on the roof as soon as practicable. I therefore respectfully ask for an appropriation of four hundred thousand dollars for the ensuing year.

Niernsee reported "the total amount of disbursements chargeable to the New State House up to October 1st, 1859, to be * * * \$1,097,229.29." Included in that expenditure was "materials not yet used in the building" worth \$63,339.80. He reported a total force employed of 469.

By an Act ratified December 22, 1859, the governor was "authorized and required" to issue bonds or stock to the amount of four hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest at 6%, payable semi-annually, half thereof maturing July 1, 1887, and half July 1, 1889.

Commissioner Jones reported October 1, 1860, that he had expended between October 1, 1859, and September 30, 1860, \$425,200.69, and had an unexpended balance of \$50,464.12, with unsold stock to the amount of \$14,800. A significant feature of his report was that a premium of \$4,861.10 had been secured in the sale of stock to the amount of \$385,200, especially significant in view of the rapidly approaching secession of the State. The Commissioner also reported: "The walls of the building will be finished and ready for the roofing early next year, and it is desirable, for the preservation of the work, that the roof should be put on as soon as practicable." He asked for \$500,000 for the ensuing year, "to make reasonable progress in the remaining granite and brick work of the building."

Architect Niernsee reported "the absolute value of work *put into* the building thus far to be \$1,240,063.93."

He further reported:

The whole of our quarrying during the past year has been done by an average number of 133 blacks, with one foreman and his two assistants, together with one machinist and his assistant for hoisting and pumping at both the quarries.

With an average number of 121 stone-cutters, under their efficient foreman, Mr. Wm. Barnaby, and his assistant, we have produced during the year 27,069 cubic feet of highly finished cut stone work, in ashlar, window dressings, columns, cornices, &c. * * *

* * *

The whole structure has now advanced to an uniform level at the top of the last course of ashlar, from whence the Entablature, consisting of three courses in height, (viz: Architrave, Frieze, and Cornice) springs, making thus the height of the building a distance of 65 feet, 9 inches above the foot of the foundation.

He further reported that the whole force at work October 1, 1860, was 498.

By an Act ratified January 22, 1861, the governor was authorized and required to issue \$400,000 in bonds or stock, half redeemable July 1, 1882, half July 1, 1886, at 6%, semi-annually.

In November, 1861, Comptroller General T. J. Pickens reported to the General Assembly respecting the new State House:

The work of this costly and magnificent structure was discontinued during the fiscal year, in consequence of the inability of the President of the Bank of the State to dispose of the Bonds, authorized to be issued for its prosecution, at their limited value. As one hundred and seventeen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$117,900) will have to be provided annually for the payment of the interest on the 6 per cent Bonds and Stocks which have been issued for its construction, it is evident that it will be wise economy on the part of the Legislature to appropriate an amount sufficient to cover the finished portion and protect it effectually from all injurious exposures to the weather.

The report of Commissioner Jones, November 28, 1861, shows:

Balance on hand October 1,	
1860	\$50,464.12
Unsold stock \$14,800 which sold	
for	14,102.29
	<u>\$ 64,566.41</u>
Advanced by Bank of the State	
on new stock	\$ 90,000.00
Receipts from sale of old tools	
and materials	254.05
Sale of \$20,000 new stock at 95	19,000.00
	<u>\$173,820.46</u>

Disbursements reported for the fiscal year amounted to \$174,450.98, or \$634.52 more than the receipts. The difference had been advanced by the Commissioner.

Between October 1st and November 27th \$9,799.51 was expended. Stock to the amount of \$10,000 was sold for \$9,500 and cement and other materials were sold for \$92.11, and those funds applied to the account, leaving a further deficit of \$207.40 which was also advanced by the Commissioner, making a total debt due him of \$841.92.

Having expended nearly all funds at his command the Commissioner stopped the work of all white mechanics on March 15, 1861. The owners of the slaves employed at the quarries consented to wait for their pay until funds should be provided by the General Assembly, and as abandonment of the quarry, involving the probable destruction thereof, and "the loss of the engine, derricks, railroad and machinery, to the value of an amount nearly or quite equal to the cost of continuing that part of the work," the Commissioner continued to get out stone and transport it to the State House grounds.

Sisson and Dougherty, having a contract for the cutting of the Corinthian capitals of granite for the porticos, and for the marble work for the interior, continued with the execution of their contract in good faith. On April 1, 1861, they were due \$41,099.28 for which they agreed to take payment in the stock issued by the State, for construction of the State House, at 95 cents on the dollar. The Commissioner had delivered to them \$30,000 worth of the stock in payment of \$28,500 of the amount due them. The Commissioner recommended that, rather than "incur the ruinous consequences of an entire stoppage of their work," the General Assembly accept their proposition and order the agent in possession of the balance (\$280,000) of the stock issued to deliver them enough to pay the balance then

due on their contract and to continue to pay monthly for the amount of work completed by them. He also reported that there was still due for labor and materials, outstanding bills and sums advanced by him \$74,501.53.

In the spring of 1861 Commissioner Jones entered the service of the Confederate States as Colonel of the 14th Regiment, Infantry, S. C. V., and ended his services as Commissioner.

The Architect reported that the total expenditures from October 1, 1860 to September 30, 1861, was \$228,115.59 and "the total amount of expenditure on the New State House on the 1st of October, 1861," to be \$1,755,228.07, but that there was on hand unused materials amounting to \$463,821.08, leaving "the absolute value of work put into the building thus far to be" \$1,291,406.99.

In the Senate on December 20, 1861, the Committee on the New State House, to whom the annual reports of the Commissioner and Architect had been referred, recommended "the entire suspension" of the work on the building and at the quarries, "in order that our resources might be devoted more exclusively to the defense of the State." They called attention to the "special contracts" of Sisson and Dougherty and stated that they were "not prepared to recommend an imperative stoppage of the work, and thereby involve the State in an apparent want of faith, and perhaps a claim for heavy damages." They pointed out that an "entire suspension of the work would also involve the necessity for an immediate appropriation" to meet the arrearages due that firm. They announced that the firm was "prepared to receive," not only what was due them, but pay for "completion of their entire contract," in the stocks already issued at the rate of ninety-five cents on the dollar, and the Committee recommended acceptance.

The Committee was of the opinion that suspension of work at the quarries would

result in serious damage to implements and materials, and might endanger the quarries themselves; that by continued idleness the wood work of the railroad and derricks would deteriorate, and that many of the implements and materials must be sold to prevent complete loss. The Committee believed that much less than a year of energetic quarrying would produce sufficient stone to complete the building. The Committee was informed that the owner of a considerable number of the negroes then working at the quarries would accept the 6% stocks of the State at 95 cents on the dollar in payment for their work. The Committee believed that work already completed would withstand the weather for several years without deteriorating and that a temporary cover of wood would not only not be necessary but would prove a fire hazard.

The Committee reported that Mr. Niernsee was willing to act as Superintendent and Architect and to accept a greatly reduced salary; that there was due for outstanding bills, work and materials, and arrearages to Sisson and Dougherty \$36,000 and they recommended the passage of resolutions providing:

For appropriations of \$841.92 to reimburse General Jones for personal expenditures; of \$36,000 for materials and work to January 1, 1862; of \$13,000 as compensation for the bookkeeper, night watchman, foreman at the quarry, engineer, carpenter, etc., and for stationery, provender for the mules and other expenses, to be disbursed by Mr. Niernsee.

For acceptance of the proposals of Sisson and Dougherty.

For continuing the quarrying of stone until enough had been procured and deposited on the State House grounds to complete the building, provided the owners of the laborers accepted compensation in State 6% stocks at 95 cents on the dollar.

For continuing the employment of John R. Niernsee if he should accept a salary of \$2,000 a year.

The resolutions were adopted by the Senate on the 20th and concurred in by the House of Representatives on the 21st.

The report of the Comptroller General, November, 1862, shows that \$275,590 of the stock that had been issued under the Act of January 22, 1861, had been used—\$18,540 thereof, after October 1, 1862. The report showed that the total of bonds and stock sold for the construction of the new State House from the issue of 1855 to and including the issue of 1861 amounted to \$1,875,590.

Mr. Niernsee reported November 24, 1862, that he had received from January 1, 1862, to the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 1862:

From Bank of the State, agent for stock	\$ 49,000.00
Stock for Sisson and Dougherty, arrearages, \$82,700 at 95%	78,565.00
The same firm for work in Janu- ary and February, 1862, \$15,- 500	14,725.00
The same for work to October 1, 1862	50.387.50
Sale of materials	11,716.57
	<hr/>
	\$204,394.07

His expenditures for the year including arrearages amounted to \$197,298.45, leaving a cash balance of \$7,095.62. There was still available for his use \$87,320 of the stock issue of 1861, from which \$14,292.31 would be due January 1, 1863, for negro hire at the quarry.

Mr. Niernsee reported that in March, 1862, the State stock rose to par and that the agent Bank of the State refused to deliver it at 95 cents to the contractors but transferred to them at par in disregard of the resolutions of the General Assembly.

The following statement in Niernsee's report reads like some of the statements that efficient public servants are still occasionally obliged to inject into their reports in effort to stop unjust criticism:

We have quarried and hauled to the yard * * * from January 1st to October 1st, 1862, 28,106 cubic feet of the best kind of large block-dimension stone for building * * * we have the above-mentioned * * * fine granite in large blocks, weighing principally from eight to twelve tons, at a total expense for quarrying, hauling and storing of \$27,-242.97, or a fraction less than 97 cents per cubic foot, and nearly 4 cents less per cubic foot than in the former year.

In connection with this subject, I feel it incumbent upon me to refer * * * to the annexed detailed statement of the cost of granite and transportation, as heretofore existing in one of the best and cheapest worked Northern quarries, which statement, I hope, will set the question of the economical productions of our quarry here entirely at rest for the future.

The price of Quincy granite, per cubic foot, at the quarry	50 cents
Freight by vessel from near Boston to Charleston	35 "
Transportation by railroad, 3 miles from the water, unknown	
Transportation by railroad from Charleston to Columbia, at wholesale, or accommodation prices, \$4.00 per ton, or per cubic foot	30 "

Making the total cost of 1 cubic foot of Quincy granite delivered in Columbia\$1.15

But the price of the above granite, at the quarry, at 50 cents per cubic foot, is only for the smallest kind of ashlar blocks, *under* 28 cubic feet in size, or 2 tons in weight.

He reported that the total amount of work still to be done under contracts amounted to \$84,064.11, and that there remained marble work to be contracted for thereafter to the value of \$154,000.

He reported about \$87,000 in stock available, "which can readily be sold at 110," yielding \$95,700. He asked for a further issue of stock to the amount of \$25,000, which would sell for \$27,500.

The Committee on the State House and Grounds submitted its report to the Senate on December 13th, and offered resolutions recommending that "the work on the New State House be continued * * * to the extent of the continuation of all marble work for the interior of the building, contracted for with Messrs. Sisson and Dougherty, and the quarrying of granite sufficient for the completion of the entire building," and recommended the appropriation of \$25,000 in additional stock at 6%. The Committee also recommended that Sisson and Dougherty and the owners of the negro laborers be paid the difference between the 95 cents on the dollar at which they agreed to accept the stock and the par value that the agent Bank had paid them at, and that Mr. Niernsee's salary be raised to \$3,000. The report was immediately adopted and sent to the House where it was concurred in on the 15th.

Governor Pickens having recommended the moving of the State records to the vaults in the new building, the Senate Committee reported on December 17th that they found "the vaults or rooms in the New State House in good condition, and now ready to receive such papers and other public records as it may be deemed expedient and proper to be deposited there," and that the "use of the present delapidated building, and the by no means safe condition of other important State papers from fire, now in the Hall of the Branch Bank of the State, suggests the propriety of the Legislature's promptly availing itself of the use of these vaults or rooms." The House concurred in the report on February 2, 1863.

An Act was passed authorizing the issuance of the stock.

On November 17, 1863, Architect Niernsee reported to the General Assembly that his receipts for the year, including balance from the preceding year, amounted to \$100,-934.79, and his disbursements to \$94,592.16, leaving a cash balance of \$6,342.63 on hand

October 1, 1863. There was still owing for negro hire to October 1, 1863, and marble work to the same date \$9,198.64. He estimated that the same work to January 1, 1864, would amount to \$16,200, which, he said, "will exhaust all of our available funds at that date." He stated that at the end of "the fiscal year 1862," the total amount then chargeable to the construction of the New State House, was \$1,898,865.91, which, with the expenditures to October 1, 1863, brought the total cost to \$1,993,458.07. He reported "materials on the yard, not yet used, and finished work stored up," to the value of \$568,596.21, showing the "absolute value of work" on the building as it stands at present, to be \$1,424,861.86; that Sisson and Dougherty had completed their contract for the granite capitals during the year, and also "produced finished marble work to the value of \$52,326.50 in superior style." He estimated that \$125,000 would be necessary if the General Assembly determined "to continue the partial prosecution of the work, in the same manner" as during the preceding year.



State House, February 17, 1865

In his annual message No. 1, November 27, 1866, Governor Orr stated that there had been issued during 1864, for work on

the State House, stock to the amount of \$24,820. A part of the printed *Reports and Resolutions* for 1864 having been destroyed when Sherman's troops burned the old State House in 1865 and the remaining part of the volume having no report from Architect Niernsee we are uninformed as to what amount of that stock issue was used on the building. The Appropriation Act carried Mr. Niernsee's salary.

Brevet Major George Ward Nichols, aide-de-camp to General Sherman, in his published journal entitled *The Story of the Great March*, records:

Columbia, February 19th.—General Sherman has given orders for the farther destruction of all public property in the city, excepting the new capitol, which will not be injured. I think the General saves this building more because it is such a beautiful work of art than for any other reason.¹

Sherman's artillery had played on Columbia all day on the 16th and had registered six hits on the western and southern walls of the State House. Only one of them did much damage. It shattered the moulded window-sill and balusters of the second window from the north side of the House of Representatives.

The quoin-stones and basement cornice at the southwestern corner crumbled off three or four inches in depth from the heat of the "fire from the adjacent old State House bldg.," according to Niernsee's report to the General Assembly in 1865. The Architect's plans, drawings, specifications, and all other records "were utterly swept away during that terrible night."

The House of Representatives, on September 19, 1866, adopted a resolution, which the Senate concurred in on the 21st, directing the governor to advertise for estimates for "covering the new State House," and "fitting up therein a sufficient number of rooms for the

¹ Sherman did not spare many other works of art in Columbia and elsewhere in South Carolina. He probably wished to save the store of explosives it would have taken to blow it up and he probably feared injury to his reckless, drunken soldiers in the explosions. He let them destroy thousands of dollars worth of marble on the grounds.

use of the General Assembly and its officers," and lay them before the House at its next session.

In his message No. 1, November 27th, Governor Orr informed the General Assembly that he had advertised for proposals for the work and that bids had been received from three builders. He stated that the bids, together with the respective plans, specifications and estimates, would be submitted to "the committees of the two Houses charged with the subject." He also stated that well informed architects represented that the building, "in its present condition," would deteriorate, and he recommended an appropriation to carry out the purposes of the resolution.

On December 19th the House took up for consideration majority and minority reports of the Committee on the State House and Grounds and tabled both of them, and the unending struggle over the completion of the building was on.

In the meantime, by an Act ratified December 7, 1866, the governor was authorized to adjust with Sisson and Dougherty, for the marble work for the State House, the balance due them for work done during 1864, and to issue Bonds or stock for the amount due and deliver the proper amount thereof to them.

December 20, 1866, the Senate adopted a joint resolution authorizing the governor "to call for plans and estimates for covering the New State House building with a light tin roof, and to close the windows and door openings with rough shutters to protect it from injury; that he appoint the Architect whose plans shall be adopted superintendent of the work, after he has fully matured his plan and drawn up specifications, which shall fully set forth all the work to be contracted for, and that the same be done at the earliest day practicable." The resolution was concurred in by the House the next day and on the same day was ratified the Appropriation Act,

which provided "for covering the new State House, with a tin roof, twelve thousand dollars, if so much be necessary."

From the report of Comptroller General Leaphart in 1868 it appears that the total issue of bonds and stock for the construction of the building was \$1,786,600.

The report of State Treasurer Hood shows that up to April 30, 1868, \$3,984.04 had been expended in putting a roof on the building. The report of Niles G. Parker, the Carpet Bagger treasurer who succeeded Mr. Hood in 1868, shows the expenditure during the remainder of that year of \$590 for a tin roof for the State House. The writer has been informed by his father, since deceased, and by Mr. Charles M. Tew, of Columbia, that this first roof of the State House was of shingles.

The "Radical" government, in issuing vast amounts of bonds, declared that a part thereof were to finance work on the State House. There was so much dishonesty in all of their transactions that it is impossible to show how much was actually spent on making the building habitable.

After the white people returned to power in 1877 efforts were made from time to time to complete the State House. An inferiority complex had so firmly gripped our people as a consequence of the wreckage and destruction of the war, and the stealing and oppression under "Reconstruction," that the matter of completing the State House became a bitter campaign issue every two years for over twenty years.

In 1885 Mr. Niernsee was reengaged as architect and might have accomplished something—even without his plans and papers—but his work was cut short by his death, June 7, 1885. He was succeeded by his former assistant, J. Crawford Nielson, of Baltimore, who was succeeded, October 1, 1888, by J. Frank Niernsee, son of John R. Niernsee. The younger Niernsee deviated from the plans of his father, doubtless because he realized the General Assembly

would never provide sufficient funds to complete according to the original plan. Had it been done South Carolina's State House would today be one of the most beautiful buildings in the world—an opinion that has been voiced by many artists and architects.

In 1899 an appropriation of \$175,000 was made upon the assurance of Frank P. Milburn, a contracting architect—who admitted under oath that he was not educated as an architect—that he could complete the building for that amount. A contract was given to McIlvain & Unkefer. The porticos, roof and dome were erected under the appropriation. The copper roof that had been put on in the '80's was replaced by a sloping gravel roof. Both roof and dome began to leak most destructively, almost immediately. The girders of roof and dome were also of such weak construction that many competent architects pronounced them unsafe. In 1905 another \$40,000 had to be appropriated to put on a new roof and reinforce the girders. And so the State House is still in many respects incomplete.



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